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RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 2077  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 2616  
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6712  
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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/CEN AND INL/AEE  
ALMATY FOR SCOTT WALDO

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [UZ](#)  
SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN BURNS 700 KGS OF NARCOTICS

Sensitive but Unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

¶1. (U) Uzbekistan marked the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking by burning 700 kilograms of seized narcotics on June 26. The narcotics burned included 430 kg of heroin, 182 kg of opium, 73 kg of marijuana, 8 kg of hashish, and an unspecified amount of other psychotropic substances, according to information provided by the GOU. The National Security Service (NSS) organized the drug burning. NSS has responsibility for securely storing seized narcotics, and for their destruction once they are no longer needed as evidence in criminal cases. In addition to emboffs, representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Kyrgyz, Tajik, and Russian Embassies also observed the burn.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: Intended to demonstrate Uzbekistan's commitment to fighting the illicit narcotics trade, this burn was in many respects made for show. It was a carefully stage-managed affair complete with heavily armed NSS troops guarding the drugs and an Uzbek NSS official who just happened to have a drug identification test kit in his pocket so he could test the material being tossed into the fire in front of the assembled media. Emboffs observed large numbers of white plastic bags being burned; exactly what they contained only the GOU knows for sure.  
PURNELL